



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/722,645	11/26/2003	Carlton Plunk	ZK522/03051	7326
27868	7590	07/25/2005	EXAMINER	
JOHN F. SALAZAR MIDDLETON & REUTLINGER 2500 BROWN & WILLIAMSON TOWER LOUISVILLE, KY 40202			REHM, ADAM C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2875	

DATE MAILED: 07/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/722,645	Applicant(s) PLUNK ET AL.	
	Examiner Adam C. Rehm	Art Unit 2875	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 November 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/19/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WEATHERS (US 6,210,019).
3. Regarding Claims 1-23 and 25-27, WEATHERS provides a retrofit unit for a fluorescent lighting fixture comprising a chamber (80A, Fig. 3) having:
 - An elongated protruding bottom wall with angled surfaces (Fig. 5 illustrates wall 80/80A/80B protruding outwardly from the fixture 30; see below Fig. 9, Ref A) for

Art Unit: 2875

enclosing an existing fluorescent strip light fixture (30) having an existing ballast (34);

- A retrofit ballast (90) with power leads/wiring (102/104) in the chamber's interior surface and affixed to said protruding bottom wall (Fig. 3);
- A plurality of opposing and downwardly extending lamp holders attached to the chamber's exterior surface, ballast and wiring (82/86);
- Two oppositely attached side walls forming the chamber and affixed to the bottom wall (80A/80B, see below Fig. 9, Ref. A);
- A plurality of mounting brackets removably attached to said retrofit chamber opposite said bottom side (202/204, Fig. 8); and
- A pair of opposing end caps removably attached to said side walls (200);

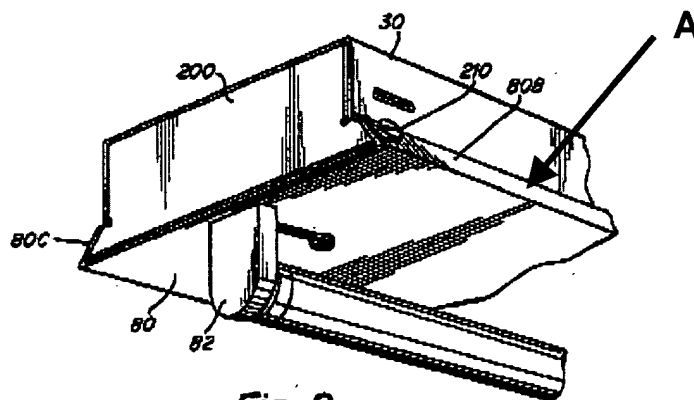


Fig. 9

4. Regarding Claim 24, WEATHERS provides a method for retrofitting a fluorescent lighting fixture, comprising the steps:

- Disconnecting power to an existing fluorescent lighting fixture (Column 3, Line 61 through Column 4, Line 4);

Art Unit: 2875

- Removing lamps and ballast cover from said existing lighting fixture (Column 3, Line 61 through Column 4, Line 4);
- Placing a plurality of mounting brackets (64/66) on top of said existing lighting fixture (Column 4, Lines 5-28);
- Hanging a retrofit unit on said plurality of mounting brackets (Column 4, Lines 5-41), wherein said plurality of mounting brackets cooperate with slots (110 and 112) in a side of said retrofit unit (Column 4, Lines 5-41);
- Connecting power and ground leads to said retrofit unit (Column 4, Lines 41-43);
- Swinging up said retrofit unit adjacent said plurality of mounting brackets; and
- Attaching said retrofit unit to said plurality of mounting brackets (Column 4, Lines 45-58).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

5. NEUMAN (US 2,530,582) provides an electric light fixture having an outwardly protruding or angled bottom surface.

6. SCHMIDT ET AL. (US 6,010,230) provides extension brackets for retrofitting an existing fluorescent lighting fixture.

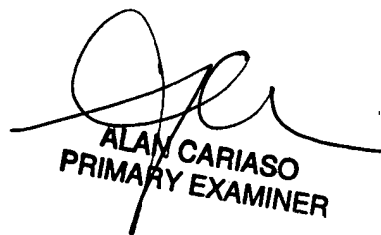
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Adam C. Rehm whose telephone number is 571.272.8589. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5.

Art Unit: 2875

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on 571.272.2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ACR
7/12/2005



ALAN CARIASO
PRIMARY EXAMINER